

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/755,715

Examiner

Kimbinh T. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

SOBOL, ROBERT E.

Art Unit

2671

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 11/07/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12,14-18,21,22,26-28,30,32,33,35-39,44,47-49,51-54,56 and 57.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/07/2005 has been entered.
2. Claims 1-12, 14-18, 21, 22, 26-28, 30, 32, 33, 35-39, 44, 47-49, 51-54, 56 and 57 are pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-12, 14-18, 21, 22, 26-28, 30, 32, 33, 35-39, 44, 47-49, 51-54, 56 and 57

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 9, 30, 47, the prior art does not teach a system for automatically cropping graphical images, comprising: the image cropper configured to automatically perform a cropping operation on the graphical image (face) such that the at least one object identified as an object of interest is moved closer of the graphical image.

Claim 5, the prior art does not teach an image cropper configured to make a determination as to whether the graphical object is close to an edge of the graphical image and to automatically identify, based on the determination.

Claim 16, the prior art does not teach automatically cropping the graphical image based on the identifying such that at least one object identified as an object of interest is substantially centered between at least two edges of the graphical image.

Claim 33, the prior art does not teach automatically identifying based on the determining of at least one face as an object of interest if the face is within or close to the center region; automatically cropping the graphical image based on the identifying such that at least one object identifying such as at least one face is substantially centered within the graphical image.

Claims 36, 51, the prior art does not teach automatically selecting one of the faces to remain in the graphical image and one of the faces for removal from the graphical image based on the determining; automatically cropping the graphical image based on the selecting such that the face selected for removal is removed from the graphical image.

Claims 44, 54 the prior art does not teach automatically cropping the digital image based on a size, a position of the face relative to the digital image, wherein the automatically cropping further comprises moving the face away from a center of the picture.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

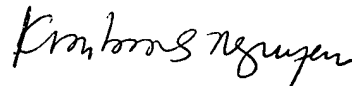
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4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimbinh T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-7644. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Friday from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ulka Chauhan can be reached at (571) 272-7782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

January 23, 2006



KIMBINH T. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER